Awu language

Awu (Chinese: 阿邬) (autonym: *lu˧˩ju˧˩za˧˩*), is an unclassified Loloish language of Yunnan, China.[2] It is spoken in Yuanyang County, Yunnan, China, including in the village of Xiaopingzi 小坪子, Daping Township 大坪乡[4] (Lu & Lu 2011).[2]

Awu	
Luyu[1]	
Pronunciation	[lu˧˩ju˧˩za˧˩][2]
Native to	China
Region	Yunnan
Language family	Sino-Tibetan ▪ (Tibeto-Burman) ▪ Lolo–Burmese ▪ Loloish ▪ Central Loloish? ▪ Lawoish[1] ▪ **Awu**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	sout2719 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2719)[3]

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Classification

Andrew Hsiu (2017)[1] suggests that Awu is related to Lawu of Xinping County, Yunnan, and that the two form a *Lawu* or *Lawoish* language branch. The linguistic evidence suggests that the ancestors of the Awu had migrated down the Red River valley from further up northwest, and arrived at their present location after migrating downstream. Lewu, an extinct language, may have been related.

Identity and names

The Awu consider themselves to be a separate ethnic group from the Hani people, including the Nuobi.[2] However, the Awu are officially classified by the Chinese government as a Hani subgroup. On the other hand, the Nuobi refer to themselves as *xa31 ni31*.[2] The Awu believe that they are culturally more similar to the Kucong, who speak a language similar to Lahu (Lu & Lu 2011:23).

The Awu call themselves *lu33 ju33 za33*, and are referred to by the Nuobi people as *la31 wu33 za31*.

Distribution

Awu is also spoken in Jiangcheng Hani and Yi Autonomous County and Jinping Miao, Yao, and Dai Autonomous County. Pelkey (2011:454) calls the language *Lawu Yi*, and reports that it spoken in Mengla Township and other nearby areas of Jinping County. The *Jinping County Ethnic Gazetteer* (2013:101) calls the language *Laowu* 老乌 (autonym: *Laoyong* 老涌), which is spoken in Laojizhai 老集寨, Laomeng 老勐, Yingpan 营盘, and Mengla 勐拉 townships (in 29 villages), comprising 2,222 households and 9,342 persons as of 2005.

In southern Yunnan, Awu (*a˧˥ɣu˧˥ pho˨˩*) is located in Mengzi County 蒙自, Nansha of Yuanyang County 元阳南沙, Dawuzhai of Yuanyang County 元阳大乌寨, and Tuanjie Xiaozhai of Jinping County 金平团结小寨.[5][6]

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